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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated August 23, 2004 rejecting all pending claims 1-8.

Independent claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended herein. Dependent claims 2-5 and 7 are also amended herein. Claims 1-8 are thus pending. Reconsideration of all pending claims as amended herein is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 USC 103 based on US Patent 5,576,981 Parker et al (Parker) in view of US Patent 5,865,546 Ganthier et al (Ganthier).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103 based on Parker in view of Ganthier as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US Patent 5,150,118 Finkle (Finkle).

The invention as described in each of the independent claims 1, 6 and 8 herein includes a personal computer (PC) keyboard comprising a foundation into which various removable inserts can be placed and connected to provide for different functionalities such as computer games, internet search facilities. More specifically, the keyboard can be used as an input device for a host PC that can execute one or more specific application software program. The keyboard can further include a removable part as claimed with a set of specific keys each of which interacts through non-electrical means to a corresponding contact and held by a foundation. [Application, pp.19-20; Fig. 5.] Each key can also interact with a corresponding contact on the fixed part in a one-to-one correspondence. [See Fig. 5.] The removable part can be associated with a specific application software program to be executed on the host PC. Other distinguishable features of the invention are further recited in the pending claims.

Meanwhile, Parker provides a "portable bar code reader including a keyboard and a bar code system computer." [Abstract.] Ganthier provides a modular keyboard assembly that allows

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input devices to be inserted into the keyboard assembly. "Each input device module can be replaced by the user with a different input device module providing flexibility to the user as well as minimizing the amount of cabling that typically confronts the user." [Abstract.] Moreover, the Examiner contends that Ganthier discloses "a specific software application to be executed on said host computer (column 6, lines 17-21)", but upon closer examination of the cited specification, "appropriate software drivers for controlling the operation of each input device module" is described – not specific applications software programs. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or description in these references when considered individually or together which describe the invention as claimed herein which include a PC keyboard with identification data (ID) associated with particular applications software programs.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1, 6 and 8 be withdrawn. Because the dependent claims related thereto include further limitations in addition to those recited in their corresponding independent claim, Applicant believes that all depending claims are also allowable over the cited references of record.

The cited references of record neither disclose nor suggest the invention as presently claimed when considered individually or in combination with one another. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

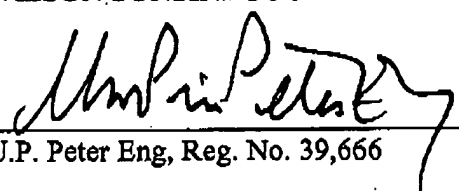
It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 27986-713).

Respectfully submitted,

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